GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1873
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2005
SOIL EROSION
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether land is shifting towards Pakistan due to soil erosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total area of land lost by India as a result thereof;

(d) whether Pakistan has diverted the flow of Ravi and Satluj rivers;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the soil erosion;

(g) whether fertile land of Punjab State has been affected as a result thereof; and

(h) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV)

(a) to (c) Erosion/shifting of bed and banks of the rivers is a natural phenomenon. As informed by Government of Punjab, no area of Indian territory is being shifted towards Pakistan and no area of land is lost so far as a result of soil erosion.

(d) & (e) Construction of some works (bunds) is Pakistan territory have been reported. According to Government of Punjab, there is no major diversion of rivers Ravi and Sutlej except for shifting of flow of river Ravi in Amritsar area gradually due to normal country slope and works constructed by Pakistan in their territory. Counter protective works are executed on Indian side.

(f) to (h) No loss of fertile land of Punjab State has been reported by the State Government. A committee on special remedial works for flood protection emabankments on rivers Sutlej and Ravi constituted by the Ministry of Water Resoruces visits vulnerable spots in the border Districts of Punjab and suggests counter remedial measures twice every year, for execution by the State Government, which executes such works out of their own resources as well as those provided by the Central Government.